

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 01280 191016 Z

47

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 M-03 A-01 OPR-02

SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 RSR-01 /121 W

----- 111576

O R 190930 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6457

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

S E C R E T KUWAIT 1280

E.. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINS, LE, US

SUBJECT: CHARGES OF US COMPLICITY IN ISRAELI RAID ON LEBANON

REF: A. STATE 068250

B. KUWAIT 1189

C. KUWAIT 1213

SUMMARY: FONMIN ACCEPTS US ASSURANCES THAT USG NOT INVOLVED IN ANY WAY WITH BEIRUT RAIDS AND IS DOING WHAT HE CAN TO COOL DOWN LOCAL PRESS. HE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED HOWEVER ABOUT UNSC MEETING ON BEIRUT RAIDS AND BELIEVES A US VETO ON FINAL RESOLUTION WILL BRING ABOUT YET ANOTHER DANGEROUS SETBACK TO THE US POSITION IN ARAB WORLD. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 01280 191016 Z

1. IN CALL ON FONMIN SABAH APRIL 18 I RAISED SUBJECT OF BROADCASTS AND ARTICLES CHARGING US COMPLICITY IN ISRAELI RAIDS ON LEBANON. I SAID WAS GLAD NOTE THESE CHARGES HAD NOT BEEN TAKEN UP BY KUWAIT RADIO, BUT LOCAL PRESS OBVIOUSLY GOING OUT OF ITS WAY STIR UP FEELINGS OF POPULACE AGAINST AMERICANS. PRESS CLEARLY NOT CONCERNED ABOUT THE TRUTH AND THEIR DANGEROUS AND OUTRAGEOUS ACCUSATIONS, IF CONTINUED WOULD HAVE SERIOUSLY ADVERSE EFFECT ON RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND KUWAIT. I SAID WAS SURE NEITHER SIDE WOULD WANT THAT TO HAPPEN.

2. FONMIN REPLIED KUWAIT GOVERNMENT RADIO WAS RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION AND WOULD NOT DELIBERATELY REPEAT FALSE AND SCURRILOUS REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE. AS FOR LOCAL PRESS, IT WAS FREE TO PRINT WHAT IT LIKED. NEVERTHELESS FONMIN ADDED HE HAD TACKLED LOCAL PRESS ON SUBJECT AND HAD CAUTIONED THEM SHOW SOME SENSE AND REASON. FONMIN SAID HE ACCEPTED BOTH THAT ACCUSATIONS WERE PATENTLY FALSE AND THAT REPETITION OF THEM WAS BAD FOR ARABS AS WELL AS US.

3. FONMIN THEN TURNED TO UNSC MEETING ON BEIRUT RAID AND SAID HE BELIEVED IT EXTREMELY IMPORTANT NOT ALL TO US- LEBANESE RELATIONS BUT TO US POSITION WITH ALL OTHER ARAB THAT USG NOT RPT NOT EXERCISE VETO ON FINAL RESOLUTION. WITH ARAB OPINION SO INFLAMED BY SIZE AND SAVAGERY OF ISRAELI RAID, ARABS AS WHOLE SIMPLY WOULD NEVER UNDERSTAND US VETO. I SAID I SHARED HIS HOPE A RESOLUTION COULD BE WORKED OUT THAT USG WOULD NOT HAVE TO VETO, I. E. ONE HAVING BALANCED IN SENSE OF CONDEMNING " CYCLE OF VIOLENCE" IN MIDEAST SPECIFICALLY CONDEMNING ACTS OF VIOLATION OF SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRORISM CARRIED OUT BY BOTH SIDES FONMIN SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE POINT BUT HE CONVINCED US VETO ON ISSUE ON BEIRUT RAID BOUND TO BRING ABOUT ANOTHER DANGEROUS SETBACK FOR US THROUGHOUT ARAB WORLD. STOLTZFUS

SECRET

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KUWAIT01280
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730452/aaaaixwq.tel
Line Count: 100
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 STATE 068250, 73 KUWAIT 1189, 73 KUWAIT 1213
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Aug-2001 by worrelsw>; WITHDRAWN <22-Oct-2001 by eisnerah, 3.4.X6>; RELEASED <29-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <30-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980203
Subject: CHARGES OF US COMPLICITY IN ISRAELI RAID ON LEBANON
TAGS: PINS, LE, US
To: AMMAN
BEIRUT
CAIRO
JIDDA
LONDON
NEA

PARIS
SECSTATE WASHDC
USUN NEW YORK

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005